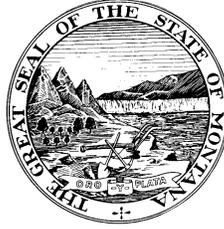


PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MONTANA

Travis Kavulla, Chairman
Gail Gutsche, Vice Chair
Bill Gallagher, Commissioner
Brad Molnar, Commissioner
John Vincent, Commissioner



1701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 202601
Helena, MT 59620-2601
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Fax #: 406.444.7618
<http://psc.mt.gov>
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June 21, 2012

Mr. Joe Schwartzenberger
Director, Regulatory Affairs
NorthWestern Energy
40 East Broadway
Butte, MT 59701

RE: Data requests in Docket D2012.5.49

Dear Mr. Schwartzenberger,

Enclosed please find data requests of the Montana Public Service Commission to NorthWestern Energy numbered PSC-001 through PSC-005 in the above-referenced Docket. Please begin the response to each new numbered data request on a new page. Please provide responses by July 13, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 444-6191.

Sincerely,

Neil Templeton
Regulatory Division
Montana Public Service Commission

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy’s) REGULATORY DIVISION
Application for Approval of Electricity Supply)
Deferred Cost Account Balance and Projected) DOCKET NO. D2012.5.49
Electric Supply Costs)

**DATA REQUESTS PSC-001 THROUGH PSC-005 OF THE
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TO
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY**

PSC-001

Regarding: Musselshell Wind Projects
Witness: Unknown

- a. Please provide copies of all contracts or agreements relating to Musselshell Wind Project LLC and Musselshell Wind Project Two LLC, including all amendments.
- b. Please provide all other documentation and written materials in NWE’s possession relating to Musselshell Wind Project LLC and Musselshell Wind Project Two LLC, including transmission system interconnection requests, studies and agreements.
- c. Please provide all invoices for outside legal counsel, engineers, consultants, or others who provided work related to Musselshell Wind Project LLC and/or Musselshell Wind Project Two LLC.
- d. Admit or deny: In NWE’s opinion, Musselshell Wind Project LLC and Musselshell Wind Project Two LLC are separate QF projects, each eligible for the QF standard offer rate applicable to projects 10 MW in size or less (tariff schedule QF-1).
- e. If admit, state all of the facts and legal conclusions on which NWE relies in its opinion that Musselshell Wind Project LLC and Musselshell Wind Project Two LLC are separate QF projects, each eligible for the QF standard offer rate applicable to projects 10 MW in size or less.

PSC-002

Regarding: Musselshell Wind Projects

Witness: Unknown

- a. Regarding any contract(s) described in PSC-002 (a), state and describe (including dates and parties) what, if any assignment of contractual rights or obligations have occurred since contract inception.
- b. Regarding all contracts described in PSC-002 (a), state and describe all modifications or changes to each contract since contract inception.
- c. Assuming that NWE had contractual authority to limit the assignment or transfer of contractual rights or obligations held by other parties to the contract(s), describe what, if any, diligence NWE performed prior to authorization and provide copies of any written materials related to NWE's research.
- d. In a recent FERC Form 556 filing, reporting a December 20, 2011 transfer of the Musselshell projects the applicant stated in response to question 7(h) for both projects:

The facility consists of seven (7) 1.428 MW Wind Turbine Generators connected via an underground 34.5 kV collection system. The collector system steps up to transmission voltage, 100 kV, at a project substation, located next to a new switchyard facility to be constructed by NorthWestern Energy.

Are there two separate substations and switchyard facilities for the two QFs, or one of each serving both?

- e. In either case, describe each facility, including NWE's construction and O&M cost responsibility. Each description should include a detailed map or diagram showing turbines and other relevant structures.

PSC-003

Regarding: Musselshell Wind Projects and QF Queue

Witness: Unknown

- a. If NWE Energy Supply listed either of the Musselshell projects within a queue (QF queue) of potential QF projects, please provide a timeline describing its progress within the QF queue.
- b. If both Musselshell projects held positions in the QF queue, please describe the queue progress of any project holding a queue position between the Musselshell projects.
- c. If only one Musselshell project held a position in the QF queue, please describe the queue progress of any project that held a primary position in the queue.

PSC-004

Regarding: Shared Facilities of Musselshell Wind Projects
Witness: Unknown

If Musselshell Wind Project LLC and Musselshell Wind Project Two LLC share any facilities not already described, please describe the facilities and shared functions.

PSC-005

Regarding: Musselshell Wind Projects
Witness: Unknown

- a. Please provide detailed explanation of any factors not already described that NWE considered when it decided to sign the Musselshell QF contracts.
- b. Explain NWE's current understanding of the status of these projects, including whether financing for the project(s) has been obtained and, if so, when construction will begin.
- c. What steps, if any, has NWE made to acquire Musselshell Wind Project LLC or Musselshell Wind Project Two LLC?